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LETTER DATED 6 MARCH 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication dated 1 March 1996 addressed to me by His Excellency Dr. Anastase Gasana, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda.

I should be grateful if you would bring the letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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Annex

Letter dated 1 March 1996 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda addressed to the Secretary-General

THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA'S PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUED UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION OF THE COUNTRY

In the 1994 genocide, over 1 million people were brutally murdered. Each village in Rwanda was affected with about 4 million people internally displaced and 2.5 million refugees lured into exile by the perpetrators of genocide.

The tragedy has left a big problem of orphans, widows and other helpless people who survived death but have hardly any means of survival. The national wealth, including money in banks, was looted and both the physical and economic infrastructures were completely destroyed.

The Government of Rwanda has stopped genocide and restored relative peace and security, but it is still confronted with the enormous task of rebuilding a nation shattered by genocide. Given the fact that Rwanda lacks adequate resources, the Government appeals to the international community to mobilize both bilaterally and multilaterally, and particularly through the United Nations system, for the recovery and rehabilitation of post-genocide Rwanda.

Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative

With the end of the peace-keeping mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) on 8 March 1996, there will still be a need to meet specific post-genocide peace-building requirements and for undertaking rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country, for which United Nations agencies should increase their assistance to the Rwandan Government. Furthermore, upon UNAMIR's departure, United Nations agencies will need to strengthen their collaboration in order to benefit from common services on a cost-effective basis, so that the bulk of their assistance can benefit Rwanda directly.

In order to coordinate the United Nations assistance to the national recovery and rehabilitation of the country, the Rwandan Government accepts the proposal of the United Nations Secretary-General to maintain the office of the Special Representative in Kigali for a period of six months. In addition to coordinating all United Nations activities, the Special Representative should monitor political developments and use his good offices to support the promotion of peace and national reconciliation.

Appropriate United Nations agencies, in addition to those already present in Rwanda such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) etc. should concentrate their common initiatives in the following areas of activities:

1. Repatriation of refugees;

2. Resettlement of returnees and internally displaced persons;

3. Support for the survivors of genocide;

4. Justice and human rights;

5. Improvement of detention centres;

6. Institutional capacity building;

7. Infrastructure rehabilitation;

8. National reconciliation.

A trust fund for rehabilitation and reconstruction should be pursued as a mechanism for the donor countries to contribute resources to enable the Government and United Nations agencies to undertake these recovery and rehabilitation activities, but should make the disbursement of required funds easy.

A. Repatriation of refugees

Repatriating all Rwandese nationals would promote the process of national reconciliation. The Government is committed to the unconditional return of all Rwandan nationals to the country. Bilateral and multilateral agreements have been reached between the Government of Rwanda and the Governments of neighbouring countries on the repatriation mechanism.

The Government has translated its commitment to the return of refugees through the following actions:

1. Advocacy for national reconciliation;

2. Restoration of security within our borders;

3. Discouraging revenge through enforcement of law and order;

4. Promoting a culture of transparency by, for example, allowing human rights monitors throughout the country;

5. Enforcement of laws governing property rights;

6. Resettlement and reintegration of returnees in both the administration and the army and in other social structures.

These measures have already led to the return of 2,272,000 in only one year. UNHCR has played an instrumental role in the conclusion of repatriation agreements with neighbouring countries and should continue to be the lead agency during the repatriation process. Resources should be made available so that

UNHCR could continue to coordinate and cooperate closely on that matter with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

B. Resettlement of returnees and internally displaced persons

During the Thematic Consultation on Refugees held at Kigali in November 1995, the Government of Rwanda presented to the international community a plan of action for the repatriation, resettlement and social reinsertion of refugees and internally displaced persons.

This plan of action indicates priority actions which are estimated to cost $131 million over the next three years to resettle and offer support for the socio-economic reintegration of all refugees coming back to the country and internally displaced persons.

The Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration will continue to require support from UNDP to strengthen its capacities to support, coordinate and monitor the implementation of the plan of action at the national and prefectoral level. UNDP, through the various specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) and the United Nations Office for Project Services, should continue to support resettlement and social reintegration in, respectively, urban areas and rural areas. UNHCR will be expected to facilitate first stage resettlement through the provision of reinstallation kits and shelter material.

C. Support for the survivors of genocide

The genocide of 1994 left hundreds of thousands of people, such as handicapped, widows, orphans or unaccompanied children, elderly, etc. in Rwanda in deplorable living conditions. These vulnerable groups could be assisted by UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), UNCHS and the World Food Programme (WFP), who will develop in close collaboration with the Government as well as international and local non-governmental organizations, targeted assistance projects and programmes to reduce the vulnerability of these groups.

D. Human rights and justice

1. International Tribunal for Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda recognizes the complementarity of the mandate of the International Tribunal for Rwanda to its own action to bring to justice the Rwandese presumed guilty of acts of genocide and will continue to support its work in the country. The Secretary-General should continue to mobilize both human and financial resources for the tribunal so that it can accomplish its task.

2. Monitoring of human rights situation

The Government of Rwanda recognizes the importance of the monitoring of the human rights situation in the country as a factor contributing to the establishment of a climate of confidence. The United Nations Human Rights Operation in Rwanda will thus continue to monitor the human rights situation in the country, carry out investigations on acts of genocide for the International Tribunal for Rwanda and promote post-conflict confidence-building.

3. Rehabilitation of the judiciary and improvement of detention conditions

The rehabilitation of the judiciary is one of the main priorities of the Government of Rwanda and it will continue to need the assistance of the international community in order to support its proper functioning over the years to come. UNDP and its executing agency in that sector, the United Nations Department for Development Support and Management Services, will be requested to continue to provide assistance to strengthen national capacity and support the coordination of external assistance in that sector.

Following the tragic events of 1994 during which thousands of criminals participated in the genocide of up to 1 million persons, large numbers of Rwandese are currently in custody. Detention conditions in Rwanda have been largely recognized as being below human standards and should be radically improved. The United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs will be requested to continue to bring to the attention of the international community the need for their support to improve the detention conditions. UNDP, in collaboration with the Government, will continue the implementation of the rehabilitation work.

E. Human security

1. Internal security

The Government of Rwanda has already started to reorganize and strengthen its gendarmerie and communal police and has expressed its intention to proceed to the demobilization of part of its army. UNDP will continue to provide support to the strengthening of Rwandese gendarmerie and communal police, particularly in the areas of training and non-lethal equipment, and the World Bank will support the preparation and implementation, in collaboration with other agencies such as IOM and UNICEF, of a comprehensive demobilization and social reinsertion programme.

F. Trust Fund for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda

It is suggested that financing of the above-mentioned activities be provided by bilateral and multilateral donors through the expanded Trust Fund for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Rwanda. All funds contributed will be managed by a committee composed of representatives of the Rwandese Government, bilateral and multilateral donors and United Nations agencies. UNDP will assure the secretariat of the committee and will report to donors on the use of the funds.

The Government of Rwanda takes this opportunity to renew its commitment to the principles and ideals of the United Nations, and wishes to express its great appreciation for the sacrifices and contributions UNAMIR personnel have made during their tenure in Rwanda.

(Signed) Anastase GASANA
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation